I363.25
CHOO
c.3

Choose a Forensic Science Career

with the Illinois State Police

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
3 0112 121939349

What does a Forensic Scientist do?

Forensic Scientists work in sophisticated crime laboratories each day on real investigations to examine, identify, evaluate and objectively describe evidence from actual crimes. The work of Forensic Scientists produces clues to track down criminals, free the innocent and convict the guilty. People who join the Illinois State Police (ISP) as a Forensic Scientist Trainee become part of this exciting and rewarding profession. The entire run of scientific disciplines has been depicted in television shows like Forensic Files (A&E), Crime Scene Investigator (CBS) and The New Detectives: Case Studies in Forensic Science (Discovery Channel). Another source of information is our web site http://www.isp.state.il.us

What are the eligibility requirements for the Forensic Scientist Trainees to be hired?

Option A - Requires a Bachelor's Degree in a natural science or in forensic science.

Latent Prints	Identification and comparison of hidden impressions from sources like fingers, palms, feet, shoes, ears, lips, or the tread on vehicle tires.
Firearms & Toolmarks	Examination and comparison of fired bullets, discharged cartridges, guns, gunpowder patterns, and marks left by erased serial numbers in metal or by burglary tools such as a pry bar or screwdriver.
Questioned Documents	Identification and comparison of handwriting, typewriting, check writing, printed materials, rubber stamps, indented writing and materials used to alter documents.

Option B - Requires a Bachelor's Degree in a natural science or in forensic science, including a minimum of 20 semester hours of coursework in chemistry with a total of 60 semester hours of science course work.

Drug Chemistry	Presence of controlled substances and the identification of marijuana.
Trace Chemistry	Identification and comparison of materials from fires, explosions, paints, and glass.
Toxicology	Presence of drugs and poisons in tissue, blood, urine, and other body fluids.
Microscopy	Identification and comparison of hairs, fibers, woods, soils, building materials, insulation, and a broad group of miscellaneous materials referred to as "particulate unknowns."

Option C - Requires a Bachelor's Degree in a natural science or in forensic science, including coursework in two of the three biology subspecialties of genetics, biochemistry, and molecular biology, with a total of 60 semester hours of science course work. The third subspecialty is to be completed in the trainee program.

Biology/DNA	Presence and comparison of physiological fluids and dried stains such as blood, semen, vaginal fluid, and saliva.

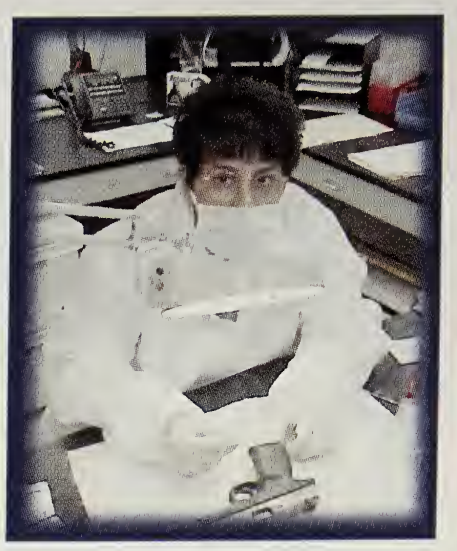
What does the position pay?

Through June 30, 2002, the starting salary for a Forensic Scientist Trainee can range from $2,485 to $ 3,522 per month. This range may increase due to a cost of living adjustment on July 1, 2002. Trainees are paid to learn their profession.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
3 1129 01041628 7

How long is training?

Forensic Scientist Trainees receive comprehensive instructions in the use of the most advanced science technology and procedures for analyzing evidence. The length of training programs vary with the forensic disciplines.



Option A-	Latent Prints	24 Months
	Firearms/Toolmarks	24 Months
	Questioned Documents	36 Months
Option B-	Toxicology	18 Months
	Drug Chemistry	14 Months
	Microscopy	18 Months
	Trace Chemistry	23 Months
Option C-	Forensic Biology/DNA	20 Months

Individuals hired for forensic biology will be trained in stain identification. These individuals may also receive training in DNA based on operational needs.

What benefits are available to a Forensic Scientist Trainee?

- Holidays: Twelve paid holidays per year
- Vacation: Ten paid days per year
- Personal Days: Three paid days off for personal matters
- Sick Leave: One day accumulating for each month's service
- Maternity/Paternity Leave: At the birth/adoption of a child, 15 consecutive working days off for the mother, and 10 consecutive working days off for the father
- Military Leave: The time required to comply with United States Armed Services and National Guard duty
- Family & Medical Leave: Up to 12 unpaid weeks off for Family and Medical Leave Act conditions
- Insurance: Coverage under Illinois' health, life, vision and dental insurance programs, and paycheck deductions at low group rates for similar coverage for your family
- Workers Compensation: If you are injured or become ill as a result of your employment
- Unemployment Compensation: Partial payment for loss of wages
- Retirement Program: After six months, membership in the State Employees Retirement System, with eligibility to draw benefits after completion of eight years of service
- Deferred Compensation: Voluntary salary deferral
- Tuition Reimbursement: Payment at the state university rate for up to two approved work-related courses, completed with passing grades, per semester
- Sick Leave Bank: Emergency sick time resource available for catastrophic illness or injury
- Wellness Program: Assistance obtaining a healthy lifestyle through professional advice related to nutritional, physical, mental and emotional matters

Where does training take place?

All trainees spend one week at the Southern Illinois Forensic Science Centre in Carbondale for orientation. Thereafter, some will remain in Carbondale while some will be assigned to other regional laboratories that operate with senior lead Forensic Scientists acting as training facilitators. Uniform classes and tests take place statewide by video conference, while facilitators provide day-to-day supervision.

How do I apply for a Forensic Scientist Trainee position?

Internet: http://www.isp.state.il.us
Click on Employment, and look under **Forensic Science**.

Write to: Illinois State Police
Recruiting Unit
3001 Montvale Drive, Suite A
Springfield, IL 62704

Telephone: 217-785-0183 or
800-648-4155 (in Illinois)

What steps are involved from application to employment?

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, the ISP does not discriminate based on race, nationality, gender or sexual preference. All times described below are approximate:

Day 1. You mail your Forensic Scientist Trainee application to the State of Illinois, Department of Central Management Services (CMS). Thereafter, CMS reviews your forms to verify your eligibility.

Day 10. You receive a letter from CMS telling you if you are eligible to take the Forensic Scientist Trainee written qualifying examination.

Day 11+. You contact a CMS test site and make arrangements to take the examination. Go to the ISP web site for more information about the CMS testing sites.

- Upon completion of the examination, CMS test staff will check your test and grade it "A," "B," "C," or "Not Qualified." The ISP normally only interviews and hires applicants who receive an "A" grade. If you did not receive an "A" grade and wish to retake the test, you must submit a new application and make arrangements to take the same option test again after 30 days.
- Several weeks before the ISP plans to conduct interviews, the department will ask CMS for a list of those eligible to be interviewed for available Forensic Scientist Trainee positions. CMS will send the list of "A" grade applicants to the ISP.
- The ISP may mail you an invitation to interview. Assuming you interview well, the ISP will ask you to take a polygraph examination, and will follow up a clear polygraph with a background investigation.
- Contingent upon a clear background investigation report, the ISP may offer you a position as a Forensic Scientist Trainee.

Who can I contact to talk about my interest in a Forensic Scientist Trainee position?

You may contact any of the following Illinois State Police laboratories:

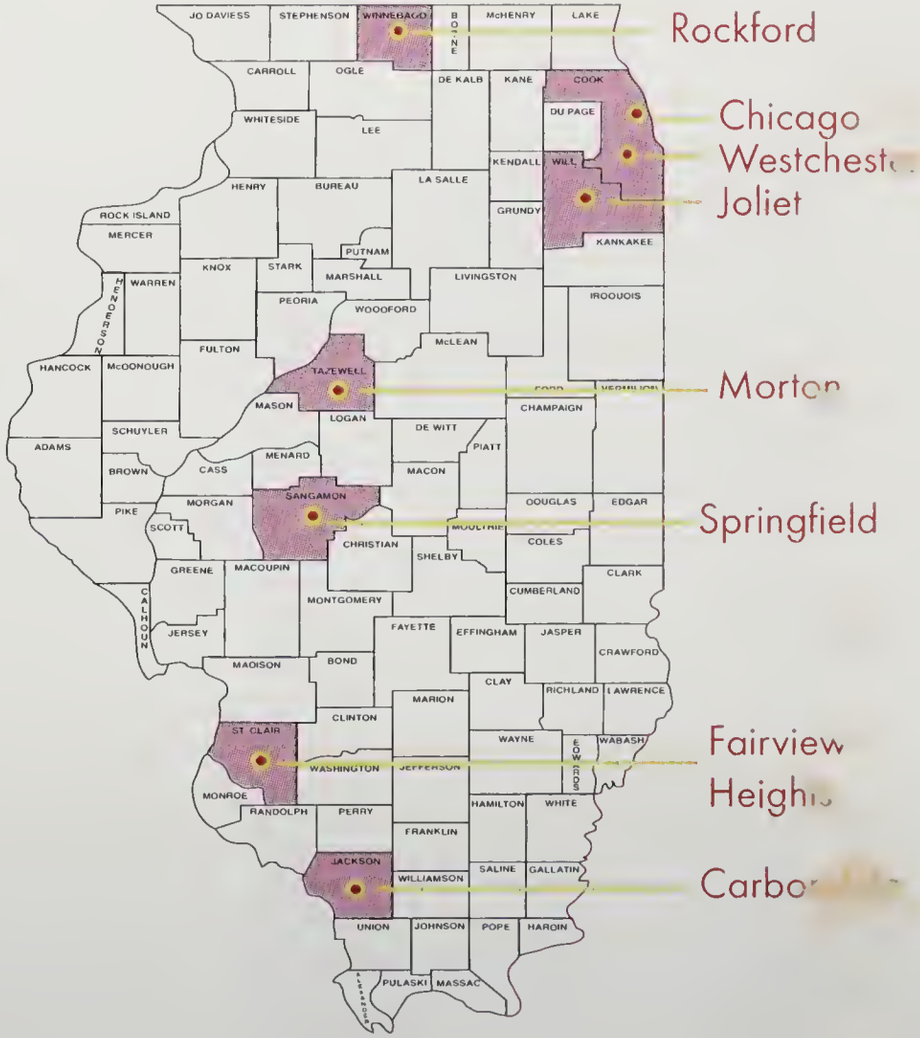
Rockford	815 - 987-7419
Chicago	312- 433-8000
Westchester	708-338-7800
Joliet	815- 740-3543
Morton	309-284-6500
Research & Development	217- 557-2399
Springfield	217- 782-4975
Fairview Heights	618- 394-6000
Carbondale	618- 529-6500

You may also contact the Illinois State Police Recruiting Unit at 217-785-0183, or in Illinois at 1-800-648-4155 to discuss becoming a Forensic Scientist and working in our extensive laboratory system.

Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois
George H. Ryan, Governor

Sam W. Nolen
Director

ISP 6-675 (3/02)



Douglas W. Brown
First Deputy Director